

— Opinion —

Letter to the Editor: Casino shouldn't serve alcohol

To all Tribal Members,

In our tribal constitution, page 5 paragraph K, it states: The Tribal Council shall not deny to any person within its jurisdiction freedom of speech, press, religion, or the right to assemble peacefully.

Even though the *Smoke Signals* states: Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Smoke Signals*, tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Apparently they feel they have the right to omit letters from us off the reservation and the six handout service area.

A lot of us are dissatisfied about our Tribal Council, about where our monies and future is headed. We have the right to express our concerns. If it's libelous about any one person or the whole council, they do have the right to defend themselves.

You allowed one woman to respond to my last letter. She used my name quite often. Even though she didn't understand what my letter was about and seemed quite happy with the way our tribe was headed. That's her right. But if you can print letters from happy members, we that are concerned have our rights too. We voted in the council

members, they're supposed to be working for us.

My major concern right now is the serving of alcohol on our reservation. We're spending countless dollars for our drug and alcohol rehab centers. So are we not aiding them in their abuse? We've hired numerous people to help members get off the drugs and alcohol, now we're making it easier to slide backwards. I for one find this wrong.

I'd like more letters from our members voicing their concerns, I've received quite a lot already, but I'd like to hear from all of you.

Write to: Vonnie Edmondson
357 Swanson Mill Rd.
Oroville, WA 98844.

Editor's note

This is just a reminder that all tribal members over 18 years of age have the right to submit letters for publication regardless of the city, state, or county in which they reside.

Burial Fund/Funeral Reception Benefit

Dear Tribal Members,

The Tribal Council has established a burial fund to cover expenses at the time of the loss of a loved one. The burial fund is available to cover burial expenses of tribal members and their non-member children, parents and spouses.

Any tribal member, parent, or spouse of a tribal member may apply for the burial fund. The Enrollment/Vital Statistics office must be contacted for fund applications. Application for the burial fund must be made within 30 days of death. The burial fund will pay up to \$3,000 directly to the Funeral Establishment. The fund will not pay for flowers or grave markers.

The Enrollment/Vital Statistics office will request an invoice of services, a copy of a death certificate and proof of marriage in the event of the death of a spouse.

There is also a funeral reception benefit fund to apply to the cost of food or food preparation for a funeral reception. The benefit is for \$150, and must be applied for through the Enrollment/Vital Statistics office. Any tribal member, spouse or parent of a tribal member may apply for the funeral reception benefit fund.

Please contact me for further information,
Margo Mercier, Enrollment Director
(503) 879-5211 or 1-800-422-0232

PLEASE NOTE: If you live in Grand Ronde, Willamina, Sheridan, McMinnville or surrounding area — please use the local numbers when calling the tribal offices or casino.

MAIN TRIBAL OFFICES: 879-5211
MEDICAL: 879-2002
DENTAL: 879-2020
JOB LINE: 879-2257
CURRENT EVENT INFO LINE: 879-2266
CASINO MAIN LINE: 879-2350
CASINO HUMAN RESOURCES: 879-3730

If you live outside of the local area — please use these toll-free numbers.

MAIN TRIBAL OFFICES: 1-800-422-0232
MEDICAL OR DENTAL: 1-800-775-0095
CASINO MAIN LINE and
HUMAN RESOURCES: 1-800-760-7977

Liquor Ordinance Correction

The last issue of *Smoke Signals* featured the proposed Liquor Ordinance that Tribal Council has yet to adopt. It was printed to ensure tribal members had a chance to comment on the ordinance before it is officially adopted by the Tribal Council. We mistakenly printed that the Liquor Ordinance had already been adopted. If you have any comments or questions about the Liquor Ordinance, please send them to Jackie Whisler, Tribal Council Administrative Assistant, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347.

Resource Directory error

The Tribe has mailed out the Resource Directory. However, a problem occurred at the printer — please note that some directories are missing pages 3, 4, 49, and 50. Please check your copy. If you have received a copy missing these pages, or did not receive a directory, please call Kim Mueller at 879-2264 or Tracy Dugan at 879-2254, or 1-800-422-0232. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Smoke Signals SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have recently moved or plan on moving, let us know so you won't miss a single issue of your favorite newspaper. *Smoke Signals* is available to anyone at no cost. Just fill out this form below with your name and address, then mail it back to the *Smoke Signals*.

OLD ADDRESS:

NEW ADDRESS:

SMOKE SIGNALS

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 ATTN: Kim Mueller

EDITORIAL POLICY:

Smoke Signals is a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. We have established an Editorial Policy to encourage input from readers about stories printed in *Smoke Signals*, as well as other tribal issues.

Letters must be printed or typed, and cannot exceed 300 words. *Smoke Signals* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain libelous statements or personal attacks. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Smoke Signals*, tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Mail letters to: **SMOKE SIGNALS**,
9615 Grand Ronde Road,
Grand Ronde, OR 97347
ATTN: Tracy Dugan